

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device [[(1) ]]comprising an elastic, elongated carrier element, as well as an elongated wiper blade [[(2) ]]of a flexible material, which can be placed in abutment with a windscreen to be wiped, which wiper blade [[(2) ]]includes opposing longitudinal grooves [[(3) ]]on its longitudinal sides, in which grooves spaced-apart longitudinal strips of said carrier element are disposed, wherein neighbouring ends of said longitudinal strips [[(4) ]]are interconnected by a respective connecting piece[[ (6) ]], which windscreen wiper device [[(1) ]]comprises a connecting device [[(7) ]]for an oscillating wiper arm[[ (8) ]], wherein said oscillating arm is pivotally connected to said connecting device [[(7) ]]about a pivot axis near one end, ~~characterized in that~~ said connecting device [[(7) ]]comprises engaging members [[(9) ]]being welded to longitudinal sides [[(10) ]]of said longitudinal strips [[(4) ]]that face away from each other in such a manner as to withstand shearing forces in a direction along said longitudinal strips, ~~said connecting device and said engaging members being constructed as one piece of thermoplastic material and said longitudinal strips having an outer thermoplastic skin welded to said connecting device.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said engaging members [[(9) ]]are welded to said longitudinal sides [[(10) ]]through an ultrasonic welding operation.

3. (Currently Amended) A windscreen wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said connecting device [[(7) ]]and said engaging members (9) ~~are made in one piece engage around said longitudinal strips.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 1, wherein the end of the oscillating wiper arm [[(8) ]]includes two at least substantially cylindrical protrusions[[ (11)]], which form bearing surfaces, at the location of the pivot [[pin]]axis, which protrusions extend in lateral direction with respect to the oscillating wiper arm[[ (8)]].

5. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 1, wherein the end of the oscillating wiper arm [[(8) ]]has an at least substantially U-shaped cross-section, said connecting device [[(7) ]]being partially positioned within said end of the oscillating arm[[ (8)]], and wherein the end of the oscillating arm [[(8) ]]is provided, at the location of the pivot axis, with a shaft extending between the legs of the U-shaped cross-section, said shaft pivotally engaging in said connecting device[[ (7)]].

6. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 4, wherein said protrusions (11)/~~said shaft~~ can be pivotally mounted in [[(a) ]]correspondingly shaped recesses~~(es)~~ (12) in the connecting device[[ (7)]].

7. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 6, wherein said protrusions (11)/~~said shaft~~ can be snapped into said recesses~~(es)~~ (12).

8. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 6, wherein said protrusions (11)/~~said shaft~~ are[[/is]] dimensioned such that they[[/it]] can be passed through [[(an) ]]insertion openings(s) (13) of the recesses~~(es)~~ (12) from an at least substantially perpendicular position of the oscillating arm [[(8) ]]with respect to the wiper blade[[ (2)]], and be locked in position in said recesses~~(es)~~ (12) from an at least substantially parallel position of the oscillating wiper arm [[(8) ]]with respect to the wiper blade[[ (2)]].

9. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said connecting pieces [[(6) ]]are clamping members, which form separate constructional elements.

10. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 9, wherein said connecting pieces [[(6) ]]are form-locked or force-locked to the adjacent ends of said longitudinal strips[[ (4)]].

11. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 1, wherein said connecting pieces [[(6) ]]are in one piece with said longitudinal strips[[ (4)]].

12. (Currently Amended) A windscreens wiper device according to claim 1, wherein at least said longitudinal strips [[(4) ]]are made of spring band material.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a windscreens wiper device, wherein opposing longitudinal grooves [[(3) ]]are formed in [[the]] longitudinal sides of [[the]] an elongated wiper blade [[(2) ]]of a flexible material, which can be placed in abutment with a windscreens to be wiped, in which grooves longitudinal strips [[(4) ]]of a carrier element are subsequently fitted in spaced-apart relationship, wherein neighbouring ends of said longitudinal strips [[(4) ]]are interconnected by a respective connecting piece[[ (6)]], wherein an oscillating arm [[(8) ]]is pivotally connected to a connecting device [[(7) ]]of the windscreens wiper device [[(1) ]]about a pivot axis near one end thereof, characterized in that said connecting device [[(7) ]]is fitted with engaging members[[ (9)]], which are welded to longitudinal sides [[(10) ]]of said longitudinal strips [[(4) ]]that face away from each other in such a manner as to withstand shearing forces in a direction along said longitudinal strips[[ (4)]], further including constructing said engaging members as one piece of thermoplastic material and providing said longitudinal strips with a thermoplastic skin.

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14(New). The method of claim 13 further including welding the thermoplastic material of the engaging members to the thermoplastic skin on the longitudinal strips.